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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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Comment. furnishes additional background and a roster of personnel connected with many of the organizations described in the present report, and should be used as a supplement. The two reports do not include, however, information on the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Communications, and the Ministry of City Construction, also known as the Ministry of City Planning.

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Supreme Peoples Council and Standing Committee

1. The Supreme Peoples Council, which is composed of delegates elected by the people of each province of North Korea, is the legislative body of the North Korean government. The Council has not met since June 1950. KIM Tu-pong (6855/2122/1144) was Chief of the Council in February 1953. The Standing Committee within the Supreme Peoples Council, which was also headed by KIM Tu-pong, consisted of a group of Council members elected by the Council itself. The Standing Committee performed the functions of the Council when the latter body was not in session. In effect, therefore, the Standing Committee did the actual work of the Council. The Standing Committee did not exercise any independent authority, but acted in such a way as to present a semblance of democratic government by holding periodic meetings and passing official decrees. Except in cases concerning minor matters, these decrees were issued as directed by the Premier or Cabinet.

North Korean Cabinet

2. The Cabinet included the Premier, the five vice-premiers, the ministers, and all chiefs of departments which had cabinet rank. The Cabinet has sometimes been incorrectly described as including only the Premier and the five vice-premiers. Ministers and cabinet department chiefs, however, attended the meetings of the Cabinet. On the other hand, cabinet orders were direct orders

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from the premier and the vice-premiers. The vice-premiers exercised direct control over the ministries, departments of cabinet rank, the National Planning Board, and the Peoples Inspection Committee, with each vice-premier taking responsibility for certain ministries and departments.

3. In February 1953, government departments which had cabinet rank were as follows:
 - a. Cabinet Staff Members Department.
 - b. Cabinet Secretariat Department.
 - c. Cabinet Statistics Department, which was the Bureau of Statistics under the National Planning Board until November 1951, when it was separated from the Board and established as a cabinet rank department.
 - d. Cabinet Electric Power Department, which was the Bureau of Electric Power under the Ministry of Industry until December 1951, when the Ministry of Industry was reorganized and the Cabinet Electric Power Department was established.
 - e. Cabinet Procurement Department, which was formerly the Bureau of Procurement under the Ministry of Commerce.
 - f. Cabinet Forestry Department, which was established early in 1952 when the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry was reorganized and renamed the Ministry of Agriculture.
 - g. Cabinet Transportation Department, which was established early in 1952 when the Ministry of Transportation was abolished and the Ministry of Railway Transportation was created, as noted below.

Military Commission

4. The Military Commission, which was established in June 1950 and is considered the supreme authority on military matters, was headed by Premier KIM Il-song. The Commission was responsible for drawing up orders concerning military activities. These orders were passed directly to the ministries and departments concerned.

Peoples Inspection Committee

5. The Peoples Inspection Committee, headed by YI Sung-yŏp¹ (2621/2573/9756), was formerly the Ministry of National Inspection. The Ministry was reorganized and renamed the Peoples Inspection Committee in October 1952 and given a rank superior to the ministries. This was done because the Ministry of National Inspection had not previously had the power to inspect the internal affairs of the other ministries. In February 1953 the Peoples Inspection Committee was responsible for investigating the manner in which all ministries, cabinet rank departments, and provincial government agencies carried out their assignments. One of the Committee's functions was to look for violations of the national laws and check on failures of government organizations to complete the orders and obey the decisions of higher authorities. The chairman of the Committee reported directly to the Cabinet, which determined the action to be taken.

National Planning Board

6. The National Planning Board,² under the direction of its chairman, CHŎNG Chun-t'aek (6774/3294/3419), and with the assistance of the Cabinet Statistics Department, established national production requirements for the ministries and cabinet rank departments. The Board, however, could not issue an order to a ministry

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or cabinet rank department. These organizations submitted their requests and plans to the Board. The Board then determined whether the figures for these plans or requests coordinated with the figures for the annual national plan which had been drawn up by the Board. The Board forwarded all plans and requests to the vice-premier who was responsible for the particular ministry or department which had submitted them. In some cases, plans were submitted to the Cabinet for final approval. If a vice-premier approved a plan, he notified the Ministry which had submitted it. If the plan called for materials in excess of the National Planning Board's estimates, the vice-premier submitted the problem to the Cabinet for a solution.

Ministry of Chemistry and Construction Materials

7. On 21 May 1952 the Department of Chemical Industry Control and the Department of Construction Materials were removed from the control of the Ministry of Heavy Industry and established as the Ministry of Chemistry and Construction Materials. In February 1953 this ministry had the following departments:
 - a. Department of Chemical Industry Control.
 - b. Department of Construction Material Control.
 - c. Department of Ceramics.

Ministry of Railway Transportation

8. In early 1952 the Ministry of Transportation was abolished and its Department of Land Transportation and Department of Sea Transportation were combined to form the Cabinet Transportation Department. At the same time, the Department of Railway Transportation Control, which had been under the Ministry of Transportation, was established as the Ministry of Railway Transportation. In February 1953 this ministry controlled all railway transportation in North Korea.

Ministry of Culture and Propaganda

9. This ministry consisted of the following departments:
 - a. Department of Film Control.
 - b. Department of Printing and Book Publications.
 - c. Department of Propaganda and Agitation.

Ministry of Education

10. This ministry controlled all educational institutions in North Korea with the exception of technical institutions which were under the control of ministries in charge of technical affairs.

1. Comment. [redacted], YI Sung-yŏp was removed from his office in February 1953. [redacted] between 28 July and 7 August 1953 YI Ki-tok was chairman of the Peoples Inspection Committee.

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2. Comment. The National Planning Board is also known as the National Planning Committee, the State Planning Committee, and the National Planning Commission.

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